

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AmConsul BASRA

41

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

September 13, 1960

DATE

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REF : Condes 37, September 7, 1960

67 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	NEA-4	INR-2 INR-7 TO-4 EUR-5 Rep-1
	REC'D 9/21	OTHER CIA-10 COM-17 DSD-4 INT-7 TAR-2 NSA-7

SUBJECT: Iraq-Iran Dispute Over Abadan Harbor

ARMY-4 NAVY-3 AIR-6

I enclose copies of the notices which were sent to shipping agents by the Director of the Khorramshahr Port Authority and the Director General of the Iraqi Ports Administration in Basra, concerning the use of Iranian harbormasters at Abadan.

The threat of reprisals by the Iraqi Ports Administration against ships using Iranian harbormasters is believed to imply blacklisting not only of the ships themselves but of the shipping lines, which would seriously interfere with shipping in the Gulf.

John A. Billings
John A. Billings
American Consul

Enclosures: (Unclassified)

Encl. 1 Notice to Shipping Agents,
Khorramshahr Port Authority

Encl. 2 Notice to Shipping Agents,
Iraqi Ports Administration

Copies sent to:

AmEmbassy Baghdad and
Economic Section AmEmbassy Baghdad

Department pass Khorramshahr and Tehran

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REPORTER

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ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to RM/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

(Classification)

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From Basra

To all ship Agents,
K'SHAHR and ABADAN

CIRCULAR No. 2

Port Officer Al-Wasiliyeh
for information

We have pleasure to announce that a Port Organisation has been established at Abadan and will commence operations on 27th August 1960 at 0001 hours and it will be responsible for Berthing, Mooring and Unberthing of all Vessels visiting Abadan and also will co-ordinate with Iraqi Ports Authorities the needs for River pilots for Abadan Ships. The Port Offices are situated at a building opposite No. 19 jetty at Bawarda Telephone Nos. 9712 and 9722 an asphalt road leads to the front gate which all ship Agents representatives have to use.

All ship Agents are requested to advise their respective principals of this organisation and also to instruct the masters of the vessels under their Agencies visiting Abadan Port to comply with the undernoted procedure and rules:-

1. That masters of all vessels are required to accept the services of Berthing Masters, Mooring launches and Wharf Gang attached to the Abadan Port Organisation.
2. That all masters will signal their exact ETA at Abadan to Abadan Port through EQZ coastal Station up to 0001 hours on 1st September 1960 and thereafter through EPY8 (Bandar Mashur) in order that vessels will be berthed promptly.
3. That all masters will sign the documents presented to them in connection with the Port dues and charges for the services rendered etc.
4. That all ship Agents will advise the Abadan Port Organisation in writing, giving information rearrival, departure and purpose of the visit of the vessels under their Agency. The notification should reach the Abadan Port Organisation (shift office) 24 hours prior to vessels arrival and to bear approximate ETA at Abadan Port and also to include acceptance for the settlement of Port Bills.
5. A wireless message will be broadcasted to masters of vessels by Abadan (EQZ) advising them to give exact ETA through channels as per item No.2.

Notice is herewith served to all ship Agents that failure to comply with the above instructions will cause unnecessary delays to the vessels and the responsibility will rest solely on the Agents concerned.

Further circulars will be issued to all concerned indicating other important information regarding the Port of Abadan.

Director General of Khorramshahr
Port Organisation

23.8.60

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From Dargu

IRAQI PORTS ADMINISTRATION - BASRAH.

Date - 24th. August. 1960.

No. 19/Adm. 33 A/21.

NOTIFICATION.

To All Ships and Tankers Agents.

It has been brought to our Notice that Sd. Ali Mohd. Mukadam - The Director General of Khorramshahr Port Organisation has issued a Circular dated 23rd. August. 1960 commencing to the effect that a new Port Organisation has been established at Abadan in order to run the Harbour Masters duties, berthing and unberthing operation in Abadan Harbour. The organisation will co-operate with the Iraqi Ports Administration in organising the pilot services.

This Port organisation of Abadan will, similarly, collect Dues incurred in Vessels and Tankers against these services.

This Administration holds itself responsible for the services undertaken by the Harbour Masters in Abadan Port in accordance with the Agreement concluded with the Consortium and signed on 12/10/1954 by competent authorities of the Administration and the Company's as well. Besides the Administration has never agreed with any party whatever either to alter this agreement or to abolish it and in accordance with this agreement, the same consider itself liable to maintain, as before, the services of the Harbour Masters in Abadan.

As you are well aware, the running of such services i.e. Berthing of Tankers and other Vessels in Abadan Harbour and movement of ships in that area by an organisation of no sufficient experience and the lack of a unified control for the movement of ships in the Shatt- will endanger the navigational channels in Shatt-Al-Arab and render stoppage of navigation.

Such a result will be to no one's interest. On the contrary, it will be detrimental to the interest of all those concerned with vessels and tankers plying in Shatt-Al-Arab being entirely an Iraqi territorial waters.

Under these circumstances the Iraqi Ports Administration have no alternative but to do their best and take the prompt and necessary action to forbid the said Organisation from carrying out such duties as will finally tend to hinder the navigations in Shatt-Al-Arab.

This Administration

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From Bagdad

This Administration therefore, has decided not to provide Pilots to any vessel on which Iraqi Harbour Masters are not allowed to carry out their duties of berthing and unberthing of vessels or oil tankers in Abadan Harbour.

This Administration hold the Abadan Organisation answerable for the consequences which arise as a result for the individual actions taken by this Organisation without consulting this Administration.

We hope that your Organisation will co-operate with this Administration as not to allow any unauthorised persons by this Administration to pilot vessels or tankers held by your Agency or to carry out Harbour Masters services in Abadan. We will, however not fail to take severe measures against agents of vessels who will give way to contravence this notification so that we may insure the safety of navigation in Shatt-Al-Arab which is in prime responsibility of this Administration.

DIRECTOR GENERAL
IRAQI PORTS ADMINISTRATION.

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